AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please delete the Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following amended Abstract:

A system and related techniques capture and regulate the stream of billing items generated in a hospital or other clinical facility for compliance with ~~federal Medicare or other~~ regulatory or other guidelines. In embodiments a conditioning engine may apply rules-based logic or other filters to raw billing information derived from clinical tests, procedures, prescriptions or other patient encounters or care. That raw billing information may be examined for compliance with ~~current~~ regulatory or other guidelines against a compliance database or template, to determine, for example, whether clinical lab or test records, charts or other necessary documentation exists to support a billed item and satisfy reimbursement guidelines. Billing items whose supporting documentation does not exist or requires further exploration may be conveyed to a holds queue, to hold the billing on those items until documentation may be resolved. Administrators and others may then examine held items for release and bill drop. ~~Because billing items are conditioned to satisfy Medicare or other standards prior to transmission of a bill or invoice, compliance may be assured or significantly enhanced as compared to prior industry practices such as retroactive audits for Medicare compliance.~~